

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) Armament apparatus for an aircraft, comprising:

a landing gear structure;

an elongated support arm having a lower end anchored to said landing gear structure, and an upper end positioned at a higher level ~~that~~ than said lower end;

a machine gun support structure mounted on said upper end of said support arm for azimuth rotation relative thereto about a generally vertical axis, and elevation rotation about a generally horizontal axis; and

an elevation limiting structure associated with said machine gun support structure and operative to variably limit the available elevation rotation arc magnitude of said machine gun support structure in response to azimuth rotation thereof.

27. (Original) The armament apparatus of Claim 26 wherein:
said landing gear structure includes a tow plate, and
said lower end of said support arm is anchored to said tow plate.

28. (Original) The armament apparatus of Claim 27 wherein:
said aircraft is a helicopter.

29. (Currently Amended) The armament apparatus of Claim 26 wherein:

said machine gun support structure is pivotable through an azimuth arc having first and second portions, and

said elevation limiting structure is operative to provide different available elevational ~~arcs~~ arc magnitudes for said machine gun support structure in each of said first and second azimuth arc portions.

30. (Original) The armament apparatus of Claim 29 wherein:

said elevation limiting structure is operative, in response to azimuth rotation of said machine gun support structure to provide a different downward rotation limit for said machine gun support structure in each of said first and second azimuth arc portions.

31. (Original) The armament apparatus of Claim 30 wherein:

said machine gun support structure is a cradle assembly,

said armament apparatus further includes a yoke assembly underlying said cradle assembly, said cradle assembly being secured to said yoke assembly and pivotable relative thereto about said generally horizontal axis, a vertical post structure secured to said upper end of said support arm and having a horizontal azimuth stop plate portion, said yoke assembly being secured to said post structure and being pivotable relative thereto about said generally vertical axis, and

said elevation limiting structure includes an elevation limiting member carried by said yoke assembly for vertical movement relative thereto, in response to rotation of said yoke assembly about said generally vertical axis, between first and second positions in which said elevation limiting member variably blocks downward pivotal movement of said yoke assembly.

32. (Original) The armament apparatus of Claim 31 wherein:
said azimuth stop plate portion has an upper side with a ramped
cam track disposed thereon,
said elevation limiting member has a lower rolling portion engaging
said track, and
said elevation limiting structure further includes a spring member
resiliently biasing said elevation limiting member downwardly toward said
upper side of said azimuth stop plate portion.

33-98. (Canceled)